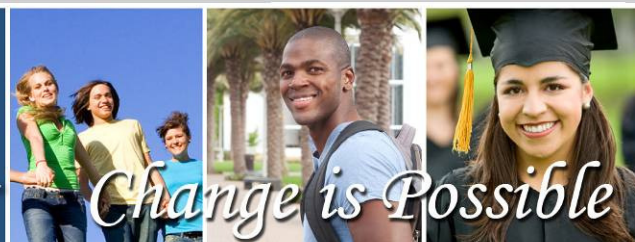


*Employees, Volunteers, Community Partners, and Friends*

# NEWSLETTER



## Sylvia Murray Confirmed as New DJJ Director

The South Carolina Legislature has confirmed Sylvia Murray as DJJ's new Director. No stranger to the agency, Murray has been with DJJ since 2004, working as the Education Division's Business Manager for several years and as deputy director of Administrative Services since 2012.

"I pledge to lead by example and work with our DJJ family to continue the agency's legacy of being a national leader in juvenile justice programs and practices," Director Murray wrote to DJJ employees upon learning of her confirmation. "I applaud your continued sacrifice and commitment to being good stewards of this state, as we seek to effectively serve the youth and families of South Carolina."

Governor Haley nominated Murray as director in January to succeed Director Margaret Barber.

"I typically go outside of an agency to find my next leader, but what I saw was that there is no one better than Sylvia Murray," Governor Haley said. "She has been with the Department of Juvenile Justice for eleven years as the business manager and also as a deputy director. She has also worked with the budget, she has worked with HR, she has worked with programs, and she has been Margaret's right hand person."

"I know that she has to fill Margaret's shoes, but I have no doubt that Sylvia is up for the challenge and we are excited to add her to the team," the Governor concluded.

Director Murray has pledged that DJJ will remain an agency where "change is possible." She added, "In the immediate future, I plan to focus on three areas: achieving best prevention and intervention practices for juveniles; examining our approach to job readiness; and assessing our services for incarcerated youth."

Prior to joining DJJ in 2004, Murray began her service in South Carolina state government at the Department of Natural Resources and later as an accounting manager at the Department of Consumer Affairs. Overall, Murray has built a nearly 20 year-long career serving South Carolina families.

Upon learning of her confirmation, Director Murray told employees "I look forward to co-laboring with all of you in the coming months and years in an effort to take our agency to the next level."

**Congratulations to Director Sylvia Murray!**



DJJ's New Director Sylvia Murray, with Governor Nikki Haley

## DJJ SCCA Chapter Gives Thanks to DJJ Employees



DJJ's SCCA Chapter Officers

Front left: Sharon Brunson-President Elect, Andy Broughton, Carlita Cheek-Secretary, Kathy Byrd Bryant-Hospitality Chair, and Daniel Johnson- Treasurer. Back left: Michael Smith, Jan Giesen-Programming Chair, Aloysius Anderson- Membership Chair, and Priscilla Pee- President.

The DJJ Chapter of the SC Correctional Association (SCCA) has been working toward expressing appreciation to fellow employees for the hard work that they do every day. In November, group members gave Thanksgiving gift certificates to one deserving JCO at each DJJ facility. A holiday get-together was held in December at the Willow Lane Chapel and members were encouraged to bring a guest to participate in the fellowship.

In the future, the chapter hopes to raise funds to sponsor memberships for other DJJ employees. Current DJJ SCCA membership stands at 32 employees. SCCA provides professional development to its members through workshops and seminars during the year and an annual conference in Myrtle Beach. They need you to join today!

Contact DJJ's Priscilla Pee (896-5416) or Carlita Cheek (896-7421) for meeting times.

## Beverly Jackson Named 2014-2015 Educational Services Support Staff of the Year

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Beverly Jackson as the 2014-2015 Educational Services Support Staff of the Year!

Ms. Jackson currently serves the agency school district as the Communities in Schools Student Achievement Coordinator. She has been

instrumental in guiding the students through the "Points of Pride" and the "Insiders" programs. Both programs are ways that the students demonstrate growth and maturity as they make their way through their incarceration.

The interview panel shared that Ms. Jackson is an asset to the Education Division, and that her consistency and dedication to her students is important. "You can feel her compassion for our staff and students when she speaks! A student starts to de-stress when he/she walks through Ms. Jackson's door. She has created an environment in her work area that is colorful and totally different from other areas."

Her genuineness in helping both students and staff has earned her the title "Mama J" from the students. Her supervisor shared that without Ms. Jackson's drive to see the students succeed and her passion to help as many people as she can, Birchwood would be a great deal less welcoming.

## DJJ and Camp Aspen Hold First Annual Seniors Sweetheart Luncheon and Dance



Director Murray with The King and Queen of Hearts Alexander Pawlak and Elsie Weber

History was made in a sweet and loving Valentine's Day way in February, as SCDJJ and Camp Aspen's youth celebrated the success of the First Annual Seniors Sweetheart Luncheon and Dance. The Bill Rogers Community Connections Center was transformed into a red and pink wonderland, accented with a full meal, dessert, flowers, music and dancing. Lots of dancing. Circle of Hope Blazers served guests in top fashion and won the hearts of dozens of senior citizens from Seven Oaks Park and Crooked Creek Park, an



old-fashioned good time. The event created a unique opportunity to bridge the generational gap between the old and the young. A 'King and Queen of Hearts' were even crowned. In a thank-you note to DJJ, personally signed by each senior who attended the event, the Irmo/Chapin Recreation Commission wrote:

"In regards to The Blazers, these young gentlemen (not boys) went above and beyond what was expected of them. The compassion, respect and manners shown to our seniors throughout the day was truly heartwarming. Please let each of your Blazers know that no matter the hardships that you may face in life, it is important for you to realize that you do matter. You are important. Your feelings matter. Your voice matters. Your story matters. Your life matters...ALWAYS. Best of luck to each one of you in all of your future endeavors."

This event would not have been possible without the dedication and support of volunteers and employees, the Rotary Club of Lake Murray/Irmo, the Irmo-Chapin Recreation Commission, and family members. Thanks to everyone for helping our youth successfully host an event that bridged generations of hope.

### **Sharon Pinckney Wins 2015 SCAVA Volunteer Administrator of the Year Award**



The South Carolina Association for Volunteer Administration (SCAVA) presented the 2015 Volunteer Administrator of the Year award to Sharon Pinckney during the SCAVA Annual Conference at Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, Pawley's Island, SC, on Friday, January 30, 2015.

Nominations for the awards were submitted by SCAVA affiliates throughout the State of South Carolina. Sharon was recognized for her hard work and dedication to the profession of volunteer administration and her exceptional service to the Midcountry Association - South Carolina Association for Volunteer Administration Board.

## **Agency Policy Update**

Last year, former Director Margaret Barber issued a challenge to all of her Deputies and Associate Deputies, and set a goal of having all agency policies in their divisions/offices reviewed and updated by the end of the year.

Policy Specialists for each division/office were identified and Director Barber's charge was undertaken by all in earnest. A few policies were deleted. A few new ones were added. And almost 100 others were reviewed, updated and/or modified. And by the end of 2014 the goal had been achieved!

As a result, for the first time in a recent memory, all of DJJ's policies are current and consistent with practice. Former Director Barber was truly appreciative of the enormous effort undertaken by so many, and called this accomplishment one of her "best" gifts that she was given upon her retirement from DJJ.

The accomplishment of this goal was made possible by the focused effort of many, but in particular the following people: Angela Hugie and Brigitte Scoville, Division of Administrative Services; Rhonda Dew, Division of Community Services; Marcie Gambrell, Division of Education Services; Andy Broughton, Division of Rehabilitative Services; Ray Cavanagh, Office of the Inspector General; Bill Latta, Office of Planning and Programs; Tomiko Williams, Office of Treatment and Intervention Services; and Sarah Smith, Assistant Legal Counsel and Jutta Young from the Office of Legal Services. A huge "Thank You" goes out to these individuals for the energy and enthusiasm they all put into this effort! And good luck to them as they continue their work in 2015 as DJJ's Policy Team!



## **NEWSLETTER**

A publication of the  
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

With contributing writers from across the agency

## DJJ to Implement Tobacco-Free Campus Initiative



Committed to promoting and protecting the health of our employees and clients, DJJ is proud to join a growing number of state agencies in support of the tobacco-free campus initiative. Starting on June 1st, 2015 the use of any kind of tobacco product, including smokeless tobacco and electronic cigarettes, will be prohibited in any facility or on any property, owned or controlled by SCDJJ. This includes parking lots/garages, personal vehicles, sidewalks, and breezeways.

Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the state, claiming the lives of more than 59,000 South Carolinians since 2005, and linked to over \$2 billion in annual health care costs. With the aim of creating an environment that is conducive to quitting tobacco and preventing the risks associated with secondhand smoke, this policy ensures that everyone who works, visits, and does business with DJJ is able to breathe clean, smoke-free air.

As DJJ takes this proactive measure to ensure a safe and healthy environment at our worksite, we want to make sure that we provide all of our employees who would like to quit using tobacco with the resources they need to be successful.

If you would like to quit using tobacco, you can contact the SCDJJ Wellness Center for a schedule of our monthly cessation classes, or call the toll-free S.C. Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-NOW) for referral to your insurance plan's available resources. You can also visit [www.eip.sc.gov/prevention](http://www.eip.sc.gov/prevention) to review the cessation resources that are available to state employees. In addition to the added health benefits and health care savings, quitting tobacco can save you every month in tobacco-user surcharge fees on your health insurance premium. That's a savings of \$480 to \$720 a year!

Your support and feedback are important to the success of this initiative and we encourage you to direct any questions you may have to: Tyler Woodard, SCDJJ Wellness Coordinator, 896-9245.

## DJJ's JRTC Hosts "Kid's Law" Session



A special thanks to Ms. Eliza Williams of the Show Them We Care Foundation, and Riverside Apartments for recently allowing the DJJ's Job Readiness Training Center (JRTC) to host a "Kid's Law" session. The goal of this session was to provide additional information to adults who were curious about juvenile justice and the "kid's law." From this training, each participant received vital information that would enable them to educate any youth they may encounter concerning the legal system as it deals with our young people.

Mathew Mathison, a retired youth arbitrator trained by the USC Children's Law Center, facilitated this session. There were 35 participants in attendance, from an array of agencies and professions--including the Columbia Police Department, DJJ Richland County Office, Show Them We Care Foundation, Columbia Urban League, several Apartment Complex Managers from Richland County, and representatives from a faith-based organizations.

Thanks also to our volunteer Tiquila Shine, for accompanying and assisting the JRTC and Mr. Mathison at this event.

DJJ's JRTC looks forward to future partnerships with these organizations to further assist our youth with connecting to their future, and to make our communities and world a better/safer place to live.



*The Upstate  
Evaluation Center  
Gets into the  
Holiday Spirit!*



## Spotlight on Birchwood School's Job Shadowing Program



Victims Service Manager Felicia Dauway and Public Affairs Coordinator Monique Williams completing their Job Shadow with two Birchwood School students

Each year, Birchwood School students participate in the DJJ version of National Job Shadowing Program coordinated at the school by Career Education Teacher/Counselor, Mamie Hayes Hartwell. This activity has been a highlight of the agency for more than a decade.

The Job Shadowing experience affords students the opportunity to shadow DJJ professionals within the workplace environment. This activity is design to encourage students to stay in school and plan for their futures. Additionally, it helps students make better decisions about their further education. DJJ administrators, faculty and staff volunteer from thirty minutes to two hours of their time each year for a student to shadow them.

### Benefits for the Students are:

1. Gain first-hand knowledge of the workplace.
2. Determine what skills, training, and education are required to do a particular job.
3. Better understand what a particular business/organization does.
4. Become aware of the interrelationships between jobs.
5. Experience interaction with an adult worker who is willing to help a young person investigate career opportunities.

## In Pictures

More pictures from the Seniors Sweetheart Luncheon and Dance



**DJJ** Promotions & Announcements

**Brandi Bright** has been selected as the new County Director for the Cherokee County DJJ Office.

**Bitsey Cooper-Charles** has been appointed as the new Interim Facility Administrator for the Midlands Evaluation Center.

The Division of Education Services has named **Paul Deligt** the new Lead Teacher at both the Detention Center and Midlands Evaluation Center.

**Tashia Green** has been named as the new Charleston County DJJ Director.

**Sally Mintz** has been hired as the DSS Liaison/Program Coordinator for the Office of Treatment and Intervention Services.

**Irona "Yvette" Montgomery** has been named the new Berkeley County DJJ Director.

**Davida Onley** has been named the new Nurse Manager at Midlands Evaluation Center.

**Dr. James D. Quinn** has been officially appointed as DJJ's Superintendent of Education.

**Deborah Bennett-York** has been named the Interim Facility Administrator for the Juvenile Detention Center.

## Congratulations Retirees!

**Amin Abdul Khaliq, Treatment and Intervention Services**

**Stacey Atkinson, Office of Planning and Programs**

**Sandra Brock, Administrative Services**

**Joyce Brown, Rehabilitative Services**

**Johnny Burgess, Administrative Services**

**Joe Castle, Community Services**

**Mark Cotter, Administrative Services**

**Shirley, Cromer, Rehabilitative Services**

**Sandra Davidson, Rehabilitative Services**

**Cedrick Drummond, Rehabilitative Services**

**Herman Eaddy, Office of the Inspector General**

**Gena Flint Ballard, Educational Services**

**Linda Geddings, Administrative Services**

**Ronny Grate, Rehabilitative Services**

**Karen Herring, Educational Services**

**Sheri Hill, Rehabilitative Services**

**Martha Hoy, Administrative Services**

**Kevin Irmiter, Treatment and Intervention Services**

**Brenda James, Office of the Inspector General**

**George Johnson, Rehabilitative Services**

**John King, Administrative Services**

**Shirley Lawson, Administrative Services**

**Blake Lowman, Educational Services**

**Anne Lybrand, Administrative Services**

**Katrina Marsh, Office of the Inspector General**

**Melissa Mathis, Community Services**

**Marcia McLean, Educational Services**

**William Merritt, Rehabilitative Services**

**Jerome Odom, Rehabilitative Services**

**John Patterson, Rehabilitative Services**

**Rosa Pollock, Educational Services**

**Maxwell Poswal, Educational Services**

**Arthur Seawright, Community Services**

**Agnes Sims, Rehabilitative Services**

**Richard Stevenson, Rehabilitative Services**

**Albert Troy, Rehabilitative Services**

**Theresa Weldon, Community Services**

**William Wilson, Rehabilitative Services**

**Richard Adams, Rehabilitative Services**

**Dori Bradley, Rehabilitative Services**

**Charles Brown, Rehabilitative Services**

**Theresa Bryant, Rehabilitative Services**

**Bonnie Burrell, Educational Services**

**Beverly Clybourne, Community Services**

**Pamela Courts, Rehabilitative Services**

**William Czarnitzki, Office of the Inspector General**

**Jennifer Donald, Community Services**

**Alesia Eaddy, Treatment and Intervention Services**

**Michele Fisher, Educational Services**

**Beatrice Frazier, Treatment and Intervention Services**

**Sandra Golden Brown, Administrative Services**

**Lujeania Gregory, Community Services**

**Robert Hill, Educational Services**

**Maritza Hogan, Treatment and Intervention Services**

**Sharon Humphries, Community Services**

**Carol Jackson, Rehabilitative Services**

**Edward Johnson, Rehabilitative Services**

**Grace Kelly, Rehabilitative Services**

**Mary Kay Lawley, Educational Services**

**Eugenia Lawton, Rehabilitative Services**

**Cynthia Lown, Educational Services**

**Avon Malachi, Rehabilitative Services**

**Pamela Marsh, Educational Services**

**Mae McCaskill, Rehabilitative Services**

**Benny Mellon, Administrative Services**

**Darrell Myers, Rehabilitative Services**

**William Parker, Rehabilitative Services**

**Reginald Phelps, Community Services**

**Sheila Ponds, Community Services**

**Rose Mary Richardson, Educational Services**

**Richard Shivers, Educational Services**

**Ruth Spradlin, Office of the Inspector General**

**Laiking Tang, Administrative Services**

**Woodrena Washington Dogbevia, Rehabilitative Services**

**Rue Williams, Rehabilitative Services**

**Xue Zhou, Administrative Services**